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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES
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Agenda item 5

CONSIDERATION OF THE LEGAL ASPECTS RELATED TO THE APPLICATION OF THE PRINCIPLE THAT THE EXPLORATION AND UTILIZATION OF OUTER SPACE SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT FOR THE BENEFIT AND IN THE INTERESTS OF ALL STATES, TAKING INTO PARTICULAR ACCOUNT THE NEEDS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Working paper submitted by Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, Uruguay and Venezuela

Principles Regarding International Cooperation in the Exploration and Utilization of Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, in particular Articles 1, 13, 55 and 56 thereof,

Bearing also in mind the provisions of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies,

Recalling all relevant General Assembly resolutions, in particular resolutions 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970, 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975, 41/65 of 3 December 1986, and 47/68 of 14 December 1992,

Recalling also the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, and of other relevant international conferences on this subject,

Desirous of strengthening and further developing the principle that "the exploration and use of Outer Space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interest of all States, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development, and shall be the province of all mankind", and also taking into particular account the special needs of the developing countries,

Further recalling that Outer Space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, shall be free for exploration and utilization by all States without discrimination of any kind, on a basis of equality and in accordance with international law,

Welcoming that significant international cooperation in the exploration and utilization of Outer Space for peaceful purposes has already been undertaken and continues to be pursued among States and international organizations,

Stressing the need to further facilitate and encourage international cooperation in the exploration and utilization of Outer Space, taking into particular account the special needs of the developing countries,

Stressing also that the exploration and utilization of Outer Space shall be maintained for peaceful purposes,

Determined to maintain Outer Space for peaceful purposes through the promotion of international cooperation in its exploration and utilization,

Conscious of the need to utilize Outer Space in a rational and equitable manner as well as to preserve it for future generations,

Adopts the Principles Regarding International Cooperation in the Exploration and Utilization of Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes set forth in the annex to the present resolution.

Annex

Principles Regarding International Cooperation in the Exploration and Utilization of Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes

I

1. The exploration and utilization of Outer Space should be carried out for the benefit and in the interest of all States, taking into particular account the special needs of developing countries.

2. States with relevant space capabilities and with programmes for the exploration and utilization of Outer Space should contribute to promoting and fostering international cooperation in outer space science and technology and in their applications.

3. States are sovereign in deciding the modalities of their cooperation, taking into account the solidarity and equity that should prevail in the exploration and utilization of Outer Space for peaceful purposes, as a province of all mankind, particularly in the framework of multilateral cooperation.

II

1. All States should have access to the knowledge and applications derived from the exploration and utilization of Outer Space for peaceful purposes on an equitable, non-discriminatory and timely basis.

2. States pursuing programmes of exploration and utilization of Outer Space should facilitate access to the knowledge and applications derived therefrom to other States, particularly developing countries, through programmes of international cooperation designed for that purpose.

3. Conditions offered to one State in a specific programme of cooperation in Outer Space should, as appropriate, be extended to other countries with which a similar programme of international cooperation is established.

4. In pursuing international cooperation in the exploration and utilization of Outer Space for peaceful purposes, developing countries should benefit from a treatment which will enable them to fully benefit from such cooperation. This treatment is especially relevant in programmes oriented to the dissemination of scientific and technological knowledge, and should take into account the level of development of the countries involved in such cooperation.

III

1. The main objective to be pursued by international cooperation in Outer Space should be the development by all States of indigenous capability in space science and technology and their applications.

2. States with relevant space capabilities and with programmes of exploration and utilization of Outer Space should promote and facilitate the exchange of expertise and technology to all States, particularly the developing countries.

3. States should promote the exchange of material and equipment for, and the transfer of technology on, the exploration and utilization of Outer Space within just and equitable parameters of price and payment.

IV

1. International cooperation in the exploration and utilization of Outer Space should be for peaceful purposes.

2. States providing or benefiting from international cooperation in Outer Space science and technology and its applications should ensure that they are used for peaceful purposes.

3. No arbitrary or discriminatory conditions should be applied to exchanges of knowledge and applications destined for the peaceful exploration and utilization of Outer Space. To this end, negotiated international guidelines so established

would facilitate the objective settling of the needs for equipment and technological transfers.

V

1. All States should pursue their activities in Outer Space with due regard to the need to preserve the outer space environment, in such a way as not to hinder its continued exploration and utilization.

2. States should pay attention to and coordinate their efforts in all aspects related to the protection and preservation of the outer space environment, especially those potentially affecting the Earth's environment.

3. States with relevant space capabilities and with programmes for the exploration and utilization of Outer Space should share on an equitable basis with other States, in particular developing countries, the scientific and technological knowledge necessary for the proper development of programmes oriented to the more rational exploration and utilization of Outer Space, with a view to preserving the outer space environment for future generations.

VI

1. The role of the United Nations and the scope of its activities in international cooperation in the exploration and utilization of Outer Space should be strengthened and enlarged, particularly through the Programme on Space Applications of the United Nations.

2. All States should contribute to the Programme on Space Applications in accordance with their space capabilities and their participation in the exploration and utilization of Outer Space.

3. In order to give concrete meaning to these Principles regarding International Cooperation in the Exploration and Utilization of Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes, States should concentrate their efforts in the following areas:

(a) Promotion of the development of indigenous capability in space science and technology, particularly in developing countries;

(b) Continued exchange of information, data, materials and equipment on space science and technology;

(c) Promotion of joint partnerships or ventures in the spheres of space science and technology;

(d) Promotion of easy and low-cost accessibility and availability of remote-sensing data, the ground receiving stations and the digital image processing system;

(e) Technical cooperation to promote and facilitate the transfer of technology and expertise in space science and technology, particularly with developing countries;

(f) Equitable redistribution of the spin-off benefits of space science and technology, in particular taking into account the special needs of the developing countries.